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(July 7 - 13, 1952)

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SUMMARY

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Flanked by their "Soviet friends," Sino-Soviet Friendship Association officials boast of membership growth, but their plans for a "methodical reorganization" and a strengthened propaganda campaign reveal a lack of enthusiasm among the people. Claims of industrial progress possible only under a Soviet regime are tempered by admissions that basic construction in the Northeast has been delayed because of necessary rehabilitation. The Japanese and the Kuomintang are credited with destroying 80 percent of the mines and factories, but no mention is made of the dismantling program carried out by the invading Soviet armies. Even after "completion of industrial facilities," the stated production goal of 10 percent above Japanese production seems strangely modest. One admitted problem is the conservatism of the workers, who resist the theory that "Soviet experience cannot be wrong," and "bureaucratically adhere to their British-American ideologies."

Severe criticism of Dairen residents who "use lights unnecessarily" and waste electricity to "cook rice" suggests that official claims of American air attacks on China may be intended to cover up damage to Northeast industry resulting from the Yalu bombings. A reminder of the part Mongolian cavalry reportedly played in the original Korean invasion comes from reports of severe manpower shortages in Inner Mongolia. Amid desperate efforts to revive lagging Chinese commerce, hope is offered in claims that Japanese workers are yearning for trade with China.

Charges of "indiscriminate" grain levies by cadres and Central Government approval for cuts in disaster areas offset claims of enthusiastic deliveries by peasants. Closer checks on mutual-aid teams, ordered because of the "mistaken conceptions" peasants have of mutual-aid aims, reveal the actual aims--to break down the reluctance of farmers to accept Soviet processes, and to "mold" them for their future role under a collective agriculture. Some relationship might be detected between complaints of student reluctance to attend normal schools and reports that huge indoctrination courses for primary teachers are being organized.

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